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HOUSE RESOLUTION 146  
By Kernell

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Dr. V. Lane Rawlins for nine years of meritorious service as President of the University of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who, through their personal and professional efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, these esteemed individuals have made praiseworthy accomplishments and are credits to their respective families, communities, and to this state; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dr. V. Lane Rawlins, who has served with acumen and alacrity as President of The University of Memphis for the past nine years, in which position he has earned the respect of faculty members and students for his outstanding work; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rawlins brought a wealth of expertise and capable leadership abilities to the prestigious position. He served as Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University of

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Alabama System from 1986-91 and Vice-Provost at Washington State University from 1982-86, where he also served as Chair of the Department of Economics for five years; and

WHEREAS, having received his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Brigham Young University and his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley, Lane Rawlins has had the great distinction of being a professor of economics at each university that he has served; he continued to teach honors and labor economics courses at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Rawlins's remarkable tenure, The University of Memphis has experienced many positive changes, growth, and expansion; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, The University of Memphis developed its first comprehensive strategic plan for all areas of the university, including academic programs, physical plant administration, external relations, and student affairs; and

WHEREAS, additionally, funding was received for the Ned R. McWherter Library that allowed for the completion of the construction of the new, technologically advanced facility; and

WHEREAS, under Dr. Rawlins's astute financial guidance, more than \$100 million in renovation and new construction is underway for additional improvements to the university's impeccable campus, in addition to the receipt of a \$15 million structure—the largest single donation in the history of the school—by Kemmons Wilson that will be used as a training center for those students pursuing a Business Administration degree in hospitality and resort management. This generous gift gives The University of Memphis program the great distinction of being one of only a few schools in the United States to have an on-site hotel facility for students in this type of program; and

WHEREAS, academic programs have flourished during Dr. Rawlins's peerless presidency, as evidenced by the addition and expansion of doctoral programs, the addition of international programs, a new honors program, six endowed chairs and five new research

centers, the revamping of the research and graduate education offices, and the tripling of research funding; and

WHEREAS, a symbolic recognition of academic status was attained in 1994 when the Board of Regents and Governor McWherter approved the name change from Memphis State University to The University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rawlins has also overseen the reaching out of the university to its community neighbors to bring community and campus leaders together to guide the progress of the school by developing and implementing several strategies, such as "Vision 2005." In addition, five task forces have been formed and the university continues to strive to be a "destination university" in the areas of academic excellence, information technology, international emphasis, health sciences, and performing arts; and

WHEREAS, a civic-minded individual, Dr. Rawlins is involved in numerous national and community activities, including the NASULGC Commission on the Urban Agenda, the Education Commission of the States, and the NCAA Division I Board of Directors and Executive Committee. He was also instrumental in creating Conference USA and rendered admirable service as the first chairman of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rawlins's local board service includes the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce, Shelby County Healthcare Corporation, National Conference for Community and Justice, Union Planters Corporation, and several others; and

WHEREAS, he is the deserving recipient of many coveted awards and has been recognized as 1995 Educator of the Year by the University of Memphis Society, 1993 Communicator of the Year by the Memphis Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, 1997 Humanitarian of the Year by the National Conference for Community and Justice, and 1998 Communicator of the Year by the Tennessee Speech Communication Association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lane Rawlins is the epitome of the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a true citizen; and

WHEREAS, his many awards and accomplishments aside, Lane Rawlins is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife, Mary Jo, their three children and nine grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Lane Rawlins is an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who has worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his faculty and staff, his students, and his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. V. Lane Rawlins for his service to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and recognize Dr. V. Lane Rawlins for his nine years of superb service as President of The University of Memphis, salute his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.